

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01558 310827Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC EFTA EA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PROPOSALS FORCHANGES IN EC/EFTA RULES OF

ORIGIN: DANISH POSITION

REF: STATE 120525

1. DANES HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY WITH EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN REGARD AS CUMBERSOME, COMPLICATED, DIFFICULT (IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE) TO UNDERSTAND, AND FAR LESS SATISFACTORY THAN OLD EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN UNDER WHICH THEY HAD OPERATED PRIOR TO JOINING THE EC.

2. WE SPOKE WITH OFFICIAL IN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND FEDERATION OF DANISH INDUSTRY, BOTH OF WHICH ARE KEY TO DETERMINATION OF DANISH POLICY IN THIS MATTER. THEY TOLD US DENMARK WILL FULLY SUPPORT

EFTA PROPOSED CHANGES, WHICH WOULD SIMPLIFY AND LIBERALIZE THE PRESENT RULES OF ORIGIN. THEY REGARD THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE AS BEING:

A. FULL CUMMULATIVE PRINCIPLE WITHIN EFTA, AS IS NOW THE CASE WITHIN EC AND ALSO PROVIDED IN LOME CONVENTION.

B. 50 PERCENT VALUE ADDED CRITERIA AS IN THE OLD EFTA RULES, THUS ELIMINATING LIST B REQUIREMENTS.

C. C ORIGIN DECLARATION STAMPED ON THE INVOICE, AS UNDER THE OLD EFTA RULES.

3. SOURCES THOUGHT THAT FRANCE AND ITALY WOULD BE THE PRINCIPAL OPPONENTS TO EFTA-PROPOSED CHANGES AND WILL LIKELY PRESS FOR MODIFICATIONS. SOURCES ALSO COMMENTED THW EFTA PROPOSALS, IF ADOPTED BY THE EC, COULD RESULT IN CHANGES IN THE LOME CONVENTION RULES OF ORIGIN.

4. SOURCES TOOK PAINS TO STRESS THAT DANISH SUPPORT OF THE EFTA PROPOSALS IN NO WAY IMPLIES ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT EC/EFTA ATTITUDE TOWARD THE QUESTION OF RULES OF ORIGIN AS NON-TARIFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARRIERS IN THE GATT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US.

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Message Attributes

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